

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of constructing a refrigeration apparatus, comprising: a ~~heat source unit (2, 102, 202, 502, 602, 1002, 1102, 1202, 1502)~~ comprising a compressor (21) and a ~~heat source side heat exchanger (23)~~; a utilization unit (5, 1505) comprising a utilization side heat exchanger (51); and a liquid refrigerant connecting pipe (6, 1506, 7, 1507) that connects said ~~heat source unit~~ and said utilization unit; said method comprising the steps of:

~~an equipment installing step that constitutes forming a refrigerant circuit (10, 510, 1510) by installing said connecting a heat source unit and said a utilization unit, and connecting said to a refrigerant connecting pipe; and~~

~~discharging a noncondensable gas discharging step that operates said by operating a compressor of the heat source unit to circulate a refrigerant inside said the refrigerant circuit, by using uses a membrane to separate a the noncondensable gas remaining inside said the refrigerant connecting pipe from the refrigerant flowing between said a heat source side heat exchanger of the heat source unit and said a utilization side heat exchanger of the utilization unit, and discharges by discharging the noncondensable gas out of said the refrigerant circuit.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A The method of constructing a refrigeration apparatus, comprising: as recited in claim 1, further comprising a installing the heat source unit, (2, 102, 202, 502, 602, 1002, 1102, 1202, 1502) comprising a compressor (21) and a the heat source side heat exchanger (23); a and the

utilization unit prior to the forming of the refrigerant circuit (5, 1505) comprising a utilization side heat exchanger (51); and a liquid refrigerant connecting pipe (6, 1506, 7, 1507) that connects said heat source unit and said utilization unit;

said method comprising the steps of:

a refrigerant circuit constituting step that constitutes a refrigerant circuit (10, 510, 1510) by connecting said heat source unit and said utilization unit via said refrigerant connecting pipe; and

a noncondensable gas discharging step that operates said compressor to circulate a refrigerant inside said refrigerant circuit, uses a separation membrane (34b, 1034b) to separate a noncondensable gas remaining inside said refrigerant connecting pipe from the refrigerant flowing between said heat source side heat exchanger and said utilization side heat exchanger, and discharges the noncondensable gas out of said refrigerant circuit.

3. (Currently Amended) A The method refrigeration apparatus constructing method as recited in Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein

in said noncondensable gas discharging step, the refrigerant flowing between said the heat source side heat exchanger (23) and said the utilization side heat exchanger (51) is a vapor-liquid separated gas refrigerant that is separated into a liquid refrigerant and a gas refrigerant containing said the noncondensable gas, and said the noncondensable gas is subsequently separated from said the vapor-liquid separated gas refrigerant.

4. (Currently Amended) A The method refrigeration apparatus constructing method as recited in Claim 3, wherein

~~in said noncondensable gas discharging step, separated said the noncondensable gas is released into the an atmosphere.~~

5. (Currently Amended) A The method refrigeration apparatus ~~constructing~~ method as recited in ~~any one~~ claim of ~~Claim 1 through Claim 4~~, further comprising: ~~a seal testing step that, before said noncondensable gas discharging step, performs performing a seal test on said the refrigerant connecting pipe (6, 1506, 7, 1507) before discharging the noncondensable gas; and~~

~~a sealed gas releasing step that, after said seal testing step, reduces reducing a pressure by releasing a sealed gas inside said the refrigerant connecting pipe into the atmosphere after performing the seal test.~~

6. (Currently Amended) A refrigeration apparatus (~~1, 101, 201, 501, 601, 1001, 1101, 1201, 1501~~) ~~that constitutes a refrigerant circuit (10, 510, 1510), wherein a heat source unit (2, 102, 202, 502, 602, 1002, 1102, 1202, 1502) comprising a compressor (21) and a heat source side heat exchanger (23), and a utilization unit (5, 1505) comprising a utilization side heat exchanger (51), are connected via a refrigerant connecting pipe (6, 1506, 7, 1507), comprising:~~

~~a gas separation apparatus (31, 131, 231, 1031, 1131, 1231) comprising including a separation membrane (34b, 1034b) connected to a liquid side refrigerant circuit (11, 511, 1511) that configured to connects said a heat source side heat exchanger and said a utilization side heat exchanger, and that is capable of separating the separation membrane being configured to separate from the a refrigerant and discharging discharge out of said the liquid~~

side refrigerant circuit ~~the~~ a noncondensable gas remaining inside said a refrigerant connecting pipe by operating said a compressor and circulating the refrigerant inside said the liquid side refrigerant circuit.

7. (Currently Amended) A The refrigeration apparatus (1, 101, 201, 501, 601, 1001, 1101, 1201, 1501) as recited in Claim 6, wherein

said the liquid side refrigerant circuit (11, 511, 1511) ~~further~~ comprises includes a receiver (25) ~~capable~~ of accumulating configured to accumulate the refrigerant flowing between said the heat source side heat exchanger (23) and said the utilization side heat exchanger (51); and

said the gas separation apparatus (31, 131, 231, 1031, 1131, 1231) is connected to said the receiver, and is configured to separates the noncondensable gas contained in the a gas phase of the refrigerant that is accumulated in the an upper part of said the receiver.

8. (Currently Amended) A The refrigeration apparatus (1, 101, 201, 501, 601, 1001, 1101, 1201, 1501) as recited in Claim 7, wherein

said the gas separation apparatus (31, 131, 231, 1031, 1131, 1231) ~~further~~ comprises includes a discharge valve (34e, 1034e) ~~for~~ configured to release the separated noncondensable gas into the atmosphere after separation.

9. (New) The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the refrigerant flowing between the heat source side heat exchanger and the utilization side heat exchanger is a vapor-liquid separated gas refrigerant that is separated into a liquid

refrigerant and a gas refrigerant containing the noncondensable gas, and the noncondensable gas is separated from the vapor-liquid separated gas refrigerant.

10. (New) The method as recited in claim 9, wherein
the noncondensable gas is released into an atmosphere.

11. (New) The method as recited in claim 2, further comprising
performing a seal test on the refrigerant connecting pipe before discharging the
noncondensable gas; and
reducing a pressure by releasing a sealed gas inside the refrigerant connecting pipe
into the atmosphere after performing the seal test.

12. (New) The method as recited in claim 3, further comprising
performing a seal test on the refrigerant connecting pipe before discharging the
noncondensable gas; and
reducing a pressure by releasing a sealed gas inside the refrigerant connecting pipe
into the atmosphere after performing the seal test.

13. (New) The method as recited in claim 4, further comprising
performing a seal test on the refrigerant connecting pipe before discharging the
noncondensable gas; and
reducing a pressure by releasing a sealed gas inside the refrigerant connecting pipe
into the atmosphere after performing the seal test.